



## 2016 Early Childhood Education Spring Conference

### Breakout Session Descriptions

Please note that handouts for sessions are posted at [www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/ECE/](http://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/FTP/ECE/)

#### SESSION ONE 10:00 am – 11:00 am

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##### ***You're Teaching the World! The Importance and Joy of Early Childhood Education***

***Presenter: Marilyn Chipman***

***Room: Galleria Ballroom***

Physically, linguistically, socially, cognitively, and emotionally, the years from Birth to Age Eight represent the most striking changes in the process of human development. Why did you choose early childhood as your professional teaching career? What motivates you to stay? Despite society's misperceptions of the importance of your task, how vital is your role in the lives of young children and their families? Our children are our future with all its vast potential. When we teach the young, indeed we are teaching the world! In this interactive session, together we will celebrate the joy of our amazing field, explore its 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges, and inspire one another as we define our purpose.

##### ***Update on Early Childhood Education Grant Program***

***Presenters: Wayde Sick***

***Room: Renoir-Russell***

The Early Childhood Education Grant program was established by the 2015 64<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and codified in the NDCC Chapter 15.1-37-01. This grant assists North Dakota's public, private, nonprofit, and partnership entities who offer an early childhood education program. Program guidance was developed collaboratively by the ND Department of Commerce, Workforce Division; ND Department of Public Instruction; ND Department of Human Services, Child Services; Head Start State Collaboration Office and Childcare Aware of North Dakota. Representatives from the Department of Commerce will provide a progress update on the Early Childhood Education Grant.

##### ***Growing Futures: North Dakota's Early Childhood Workforce Registry***

***Presenter: Ellen Anderson***

***Room: Wyeth-Rockwell***

The early childhood period is a critically important part of the birth-20 continuum. What happens in early childhood care and education settings has an impact on children's ability to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Quality early care and education simply means programs that support healthy developmental and learning outcomes for children ages 0-8 years – the conditions that young children need to grow, learn, and thrive. However, quality early programming does not happen by accident. It depends on the knowledge and skills of the caregivers and teachers who design and deliver the program. What do we know about this essential component of our state's early childhood system? Who is the early childhood workforce? How is the early childhood workforce prepared and qualified for their work? As the state early childhood workforce clearinghouse, Growing Futures is designed to track, verify, and report this important workforce data. Join us to learn more about North Dakota's early childhood workforce, and what we can do to grow the field of early care and education. This session is the first of a two-session presentation and will lead into a discussion about the state quality rating initiative, Bright & Early.

##### ***SEEDS Quality Strategies for Increased Engagement & Literacy Growth in Preschool***

***Presenter: Jamie Berg-Gramer***

***Room: Van Gogh-Remington***

Participants will learn quick transition strategies that are literacy-rich, fun, and engaging. SEED is a nationally recognized curriculum that makes a difference for children, teachers, and coaches.



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#### SESSION TWO 11:10 am – 12:10 pm

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##### **Using Functional Outcomes to Improve Early Intervention**

***Presenter: Kristen Votava & Carol Johnson***

***Room: Galleria Ballroom***

Learn the criteria for writing functional outcomes in early intervention. Rate outcomes with a group, and discuss how this process improves early intervention services.

##### **Promoting Self-Regulation to Help Children with Challenging Behaviors**

***Presenter: Dawnita Nilles***

***Room: Renoir-Russell***

A discussion about how young children experience all the same emotions adults do but they have to be taught to recognize what those emotions feel like. Once they can identify what the emotion feels like, then the child can begin to learn strategies to deal with the emotion which leads to learning to control their behaviors and actions.

##### **Bright & Early - How North Dakota's Early Childhood Quality Rating & Improvement System Aligns with and Prepares Children for Elementary Education**

***Presenter: Pam Palmer***

***Room: Wyeth-Rockwell***

This session is part two of a two-session presentation continuing the conversation surrounding quality early childhood education (ECE) in North Dakota. You've been introduced to the state early childhood workforce clearinghouse, Growing Futures, now learn how Bright & Early ND (QRIS) partners with Growing Futures to improve early care and education throughout our state. Children have about 1,825 days from the day they're born until they enter kindergarten. Incredibly, 90% of brain development happens during this short time. With so much growth happening in their first 5 years of life, children need quality ECE programs to thrive and prepare for kindergarten and beyond. We've struggled for years to define what "quality" ECE is. Our state has joined the national movement through the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to set standards for Early Care and Education settings. Through rigorous research and years of piloting a QRIS system, North Dakota has determined quality is defined through 4 steps – Step 1 Health & Safety, Step 2 Space & Materials, Step 3 Activities & Experiences and Step 4 Relationships & Interactions. These steps have been designed as building blocks towards quality. Learn about the standards, including professional development requirements, in each "Step" and how they impact quality through all Early Childhood Education settings.

##### **Supporting Families**

***Presenter: Donene Feist***

***Room: Van Gogh-Remington***

This session will discuss the importance of family support. We will discuss perspectives of the family, how-to's of family support, and tools to assist you.



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#### SESSION THREE 1:40 pm – 2:40 pm

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##### **Sing, Dance, Chant, Cheer Make-It, Take-It (Part 1)**

**Presenters: Sharon Olson & Marlena Maddock**

**Room: Galleria Ballroom**

Singing emits endorphins, and endorphins make you happy. Emotions are critical for learning. Music is multi-sensory. Music is essential for prior-learning. Music nurtures phonemic awareness (alliteration and rhyming). Songs, chants, and cheers develop oral language and auditory memory. Songs and chants lay a foundation for fluency and support short-term memory. Singing, dancing, and cheering are just plain fun! All of our activities are child approved, teacher tested, and participants can use them Monday morning with enthusiasm.

##### **North Dakota's Early Childhood Data System Efforts**

**Presenter: Mark Schaefer**

**Room: Renoir-Russell**

Multiple efforts are underway to collect early childhood data in order to demonstrate the benefits of early childhood care and education as well as outcomes for children. At the same time, efforts to integrate that data with the State Longitudinal Data System are intended to provide evidence of the long term, far-reaching benefits of early service provision. This session will focus on the state's efforts to date, initiatives underway, and the long-term direction of the Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems for North Dakota.

##### **PLAY – Purposeful, hands-on Learning Adapted for all Young Children**

**Presenter: Janet Basingthwaite**

**Room: Wyeth-Rockwell**

Review the effective PLAY practices in preschool teaching and learning. Participants will "make and take" purposeful, hands-on, developmentally appropriate activities aligned to the North Dakota Pre-Kindergarten Content Standards.

##### **Using Differentiated Instruction to Enhance Ready-Made Curriculums**

**Presenter: Carol Enger**

**Room: Van Gogh-Remington**

While there are some advantages to using curriculums that are ready-made, there are also serious concerns with developmentally appropriate programming. Participants in this session will learn ways to identify ready-made curriculums and ways to use differentiated instruction strategies to enhance the curriculums.



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#### SESSION FOUR 2:50 pm – 3:50 pm

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##### **Sing, Dance, Chant, Cheer Make-It, Take-It (Part 2)**

**Presenters: Sharon Olson & Marlena Maddock**

**Room: Galleria Ballroom**

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##### **Education Standards and Practices Board-Licensure for Early Childhood**

**Presenter: Mari Fridgen**

**Room: Renoir-Russell**

Learn what the requirements are for becoming licensed by the Education Standards and Practices Board to teach Early Childhood. Bring your questions along, and we'll make sure you leave knowing what is needed to become a licensed early childhood teacher.

##### **Understanding the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Toxic Stress**

**Presenter: Kathy Anderson**

**Room: Wyeth-Rockwell**

Stressful events that happen in the early years of development affect us in ways that last our entire lives. Science tells us that from birth, our brains are growing and adjusting to our environment. Concurrent advances in the NEAR sciences - Neuroscience, Epigenetics, ACE's, and Resilience have given us, not only evidence that these statements are true, but also provide mechanisms by which traumatic, friendly, threatening, or soothing experiences get wired into our biology. This presentation will review results of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, define the different types of stress including toxic stress, and describe how the fields of neuroscience and epigenetics have helped us understand the mechanisms by which toxic stress occurs and continue to inform ways of reducing toxic stress.

##### **Gearing Up for Kindergarten - Meeting Today's Early Childhood Parent Education Requirement**

**Presenter: Judith Konerza**

**Room: Van Gogh-Remington**

The Gearing Up for Kindergarten program and curriculum provides parent education meeting the Early Childhood grant requirement for parent education training. This 16-lesson curriculum provides up to 32 hours of presentation material in the form of PowerPoint, handouts, and step-by-step guidance for instructors. Come see the curriculum, learn from the trainer, and ask questions.